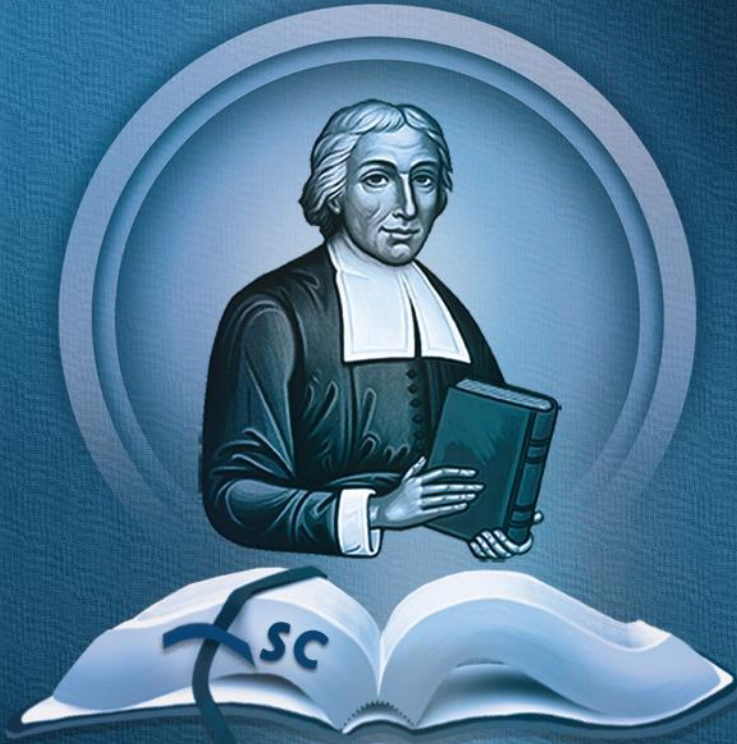




Brothers of
the Christian
Schools



WORD OF GOD
IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

First Reading: Exodus 22:21-27

Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be devoted to destruction. You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans. If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them. If you take your neighbor's cloak in pawn, you shall restore it before the sun goes down: for it may be your neighbor's only clothing to use as cover; in what else shall that person sleep? And if your neighbor cries out to me, I will listen, for I am compassionate.

Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my savior. *R.*

My God is the rock where I take refuge;
My shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. *R.*

Long life to the Lord my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. *R.*

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



Ⓡ I am one of the band,
skulking along untrodden ways,
hauling our rotting flesh
across the unforgiving land.

Then we hear his voice,
and spy him from afar,
and descend with fearful cries,
seeking deliverance.

He speaks and stills our cries,
and sends us on our way;
and in utter consternation,
we watch our rottenness slough,
and we emerge fresh and clean,
like new-born babes.

And on the road,
we dance and sing and cling,
in a merry-go-round,
mad, I'm bound.

I turn back, I alone,
to thank him.
He remembers our number,
and reckons nine out of ten
a poor enough return.

But he takes the positives,
the gratitude of an outcast,
giving glory to his Father.
Amen.

30

OCTOBER

MONDAY

30th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

GERARD MAJELLA



CONFESSOR

(1726 - 1755)

Gerard was a Redemptorist brother who became known for his extraordinary supernatural gifts of bilocation, prophecy, ecstasies, visions, and infused knowledge. He was most successful in converting sinners, and was widely known for his sanctity and charity. He was canonised on December 11, 1904 by Pope Pius X. He is the patron saint of mothers, pregnant women, unborn children, the prolife movement, and lay brothers.

**SATURNINUS OF
CAGLIARI**

First Reading: Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. *...(please see appendix Page 503)*

Psalm 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21

℟ *This God of ours is a God who saves.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

℟ You may have heard this little story before. Even if you have, I hope a revisit will give you a laugh. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, was on a visit to the United States of America. As part of the programme he was scheduled to pay a visit to a school. He was told in advance that the particular class in the school he was to visit had one special feature. There was a boy there who was never known to smile or laugh. The principal, teachers and fellow classmates had all tried to make the boy laugh and had failed. Nehru thought about that boy and the more he thought the more determined he became to rise to this challenge. Whatever it took, he was going to get a smile or laugh out of the boy. Nehru took to planning strategy. Now Nehru was as bald as a coot and usually wore a hat to cover his baldness. When he arrived in the classroom, he slowly took off his hat and looked all around. He then fished in his pocket, extracted a comb and proceeded to comb his non-existent hair. It was too much for the boy. The boy who never laughed burst out laughing. Mother Teresa always wanted to make people, especially poor people, feel good. "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."

First Reading: Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Psalm 126:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6

℟ *What great deeds the Lord worked for us!*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom.

Gospel: Luke 13:18-21

Jesus said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

℟ Not so long ago, a small group of people came to visit our chapel. Our chapel is on the 5th floor. Besides being the home of our loving Father, it contains some earthly gems. There are two coloured glass windows, one of the Last Supper and one of the Sermon on the Mount. There are relics of some Saints. There are old-fashioned pews and a confession box. One member of the visiting group was an eight-year-old girl. Her mother took on the task of pointing out the special features in the chapel. The relics took a bit of explaining but the girl eventually seemed to understand. She did not take long to identify the 'money-man' in the picture of the Last Supper. The 'lilies of the field' in the picture of the Sermon on the Mount did not raise undue attention. It was the confession box that triggered the next phase. When told it was used for confessing our faults and failings to God, the young girl began to work it out.

"Does God have a telephone"? she asked.

"No" said the mother. "Why not"? asked the girl.

"Because he can hear everyone without one" answered the mother. Well, it was an answer and I think it was theologically correct, but it did not seem to impress the girl. As far as she was concerned, God should have the latest in technology. He should be wired-up. Period.



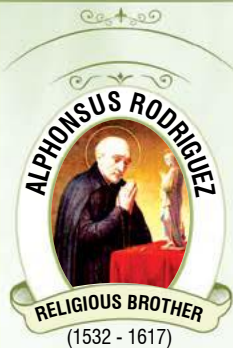
31

OCTOBER

TUESDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



St. Alphonsus Rodríguez was a Jesuit lay brother who labored as a hall porter for twenty-four years. Obedience and penance were the hallmarks of his life, as well as his devotion to the Immaculate Conception. He experienced many spiritual consolations, and he wrote religious treatises, very simple in style but sound in doctrine. His holiness and prayerfulness attracted many to him, including St. Peter Claver. He is the patron saint of Majorca.

1



NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

SOLEMNITY

ALL SAINTS DAY



The feast of All Saints' Day commemorates all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on those saints recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. It was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD.

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage earth and sea, saying, "Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the people of Israel. ...*(please see appendix Page 503)*

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

℟ *These are the people who seek your face, O Lord.*

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

℟ Today is the solemnity of All Saints. What is a saint? A saint is someone like you and me who has died and the church recognises that their soul is in heaven. We are all called to be saints. Today the church recognises the many, many different saints that do not have a particular feast day. Close your eyes and bring to mind the many saints that have walked with you. We remember all those people who have helped us in our lives. Today's gospel reminds us about the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus reminds us about the way we should act and behave towards others. Dear God, help me practice the virtues of the beatitudes in today's gospel.



2

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

VIOLET

ALL SOULS DAY



All Souls' Day is a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed, those baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory because they died with the guilt of lesser sins on their souls. Roman Catholic doctrine holds that the prayers of the faithful on earth will help cleanse these souls in order to fit them for the vision of God in heaven, and the day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance.

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, ...*(please see appendix Page 504)*

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Romans 5: 5-11 or Romans 6: 3-9

And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Jesus Christ, the first born of the dead, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Gospel: John 6:37-40

Jesus said, Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

℟ In today's gospel Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? We are asked the same question do; we believe? Belief involves letting go. Imagine going out for a walk near the side of a cliff and suddenly the cliff gives way and you find yourself hanging on to a branch of a tree dangling over the edge a long way down. In desperation you cry to God for help. You hear a voice. 'Have faith,' the voice says. 'I have' you respond. Then let go the voice says. What would you do? Maybe you would ask 'Is there anyone else there?' God is beyond our comprehension. We need to accept in faith what we learn from the scriptures. Jesus gives us insight and helps us in our daily lives. Dear God, give me the gift of faith so that I may let go the things that separate me from you.

3

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

MARTIN DE PORRES



RELIGIOUS

(1579 - 1639)

Martin de Porres was a lay brother of the Dominican Order who was noted for his work on behalf of the poor, establishing an orphanage and a children's hospital. He set up a shelter for the stray cats and dogs and nursed them back to health. He spent much time in prayer and meditation with a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist. He was canonised on 6 May 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

First Reading: Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

℟️ *O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me

Gospel: Luke 14:1-6

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath, or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Then he said to them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?" And they could not reply to this.

℟️ Jesus healed the man. We all need healing. We need to be healed from those things that separate us from God. We make choices every day. Close your eyes and ask God to heal you. Remember that you are in the presence of God. God calls you by name. God wants to heal you. The man in the gospel experienced healing. We too can experience healing. Imagine the different experiences of all those involved in the gospel. Some believed; others did not. Some were filled with joy and happiness. Others were filled with doubts and uncertainties. Dear God, heal me in those areas of my life where I need help. Heal those I have hurt/offended.



4

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL

CHARLES BORROMEO



CARDINAL & ARCHBISHOP

(1538 - 1584)

Charles was a leading figure of the Counter Reformation combat against the Protestant Reformation together with St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Philip Neri. He was responsible for significant reforms in the Catholic Church, including the founding of seminaries. He became a true shepherd of his flock and frequently went around his diocese, called synods, and worked for the good of Christian morality. He is the patron saint of bishops, catechists and seminarians.

First Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/B

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! So that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob." "And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins." As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Psalms 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18

℟️ The Lord will not abandon his people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord; and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-11

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

℟️ When we are invited to go out for a meal, we put on our finest clothes to look our best. We are delighted to have been invited. We are filled with excitement and anticipation. It makes us feel special. It makes us feel important. But it may make us look down upon those who are not invited to the meal. These thoughts and feelings may separate us from God because we presume that we are better than others. In today's gospel we are given an example of not thinking or feeling that just because we have been invited to a meal, we are better than others. Always remember that we are all created equally in the image and likeness of God. Dear God, I pray for the gift of humility make me aware of your presence in others.